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(54) **ANION INSERTION ELECTRODE MATERIALS FOR DESALINATION WATER CLEANING DEVICE**

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See application file for complete search history.

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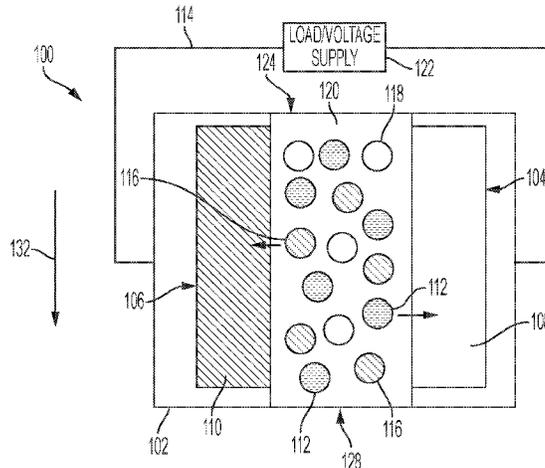
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A desalination battery includes a first electrode, a second electrode, an intercalation compound contained in the first electrode, a container configured to contain a saline water solution, and a power source. The intercalation compound includes at least one of a metal oxide, a metalloid oxide, a metal oxychloride, a metalloid oxychloride, and a hydrate thereof with each having a ternary or higher order. The first and second electrodes are configured to be arranged in fluid communication with the saline water solution. The power source is configured to supply electric current to the first and second electrodes in different operating states to induce a reversible intercalation reaction within the intercalation compound. The intercalation compound reversibly stores and releases target anions from the saline water solution to

(Continued)



generate a fresh water solution in one operating state and a wastewater solution in another operating state.

8 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets

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C01D 3/04 (2006.01)
C02F 103/08 (2006.01)
- (52) **U.S. Cl.**
 CPC *C01P 2006/40* (2013.01); *C02F 2001/46133* (2013.01); *C02F 2103/08* (2013.01)

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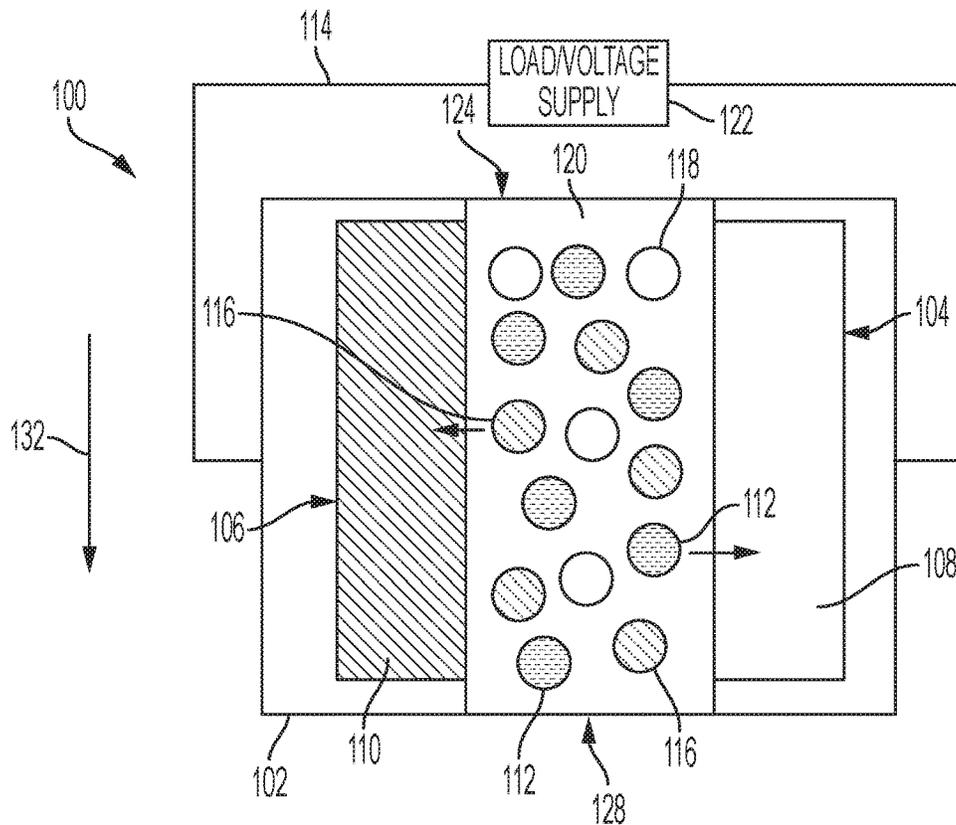


FIG. 1

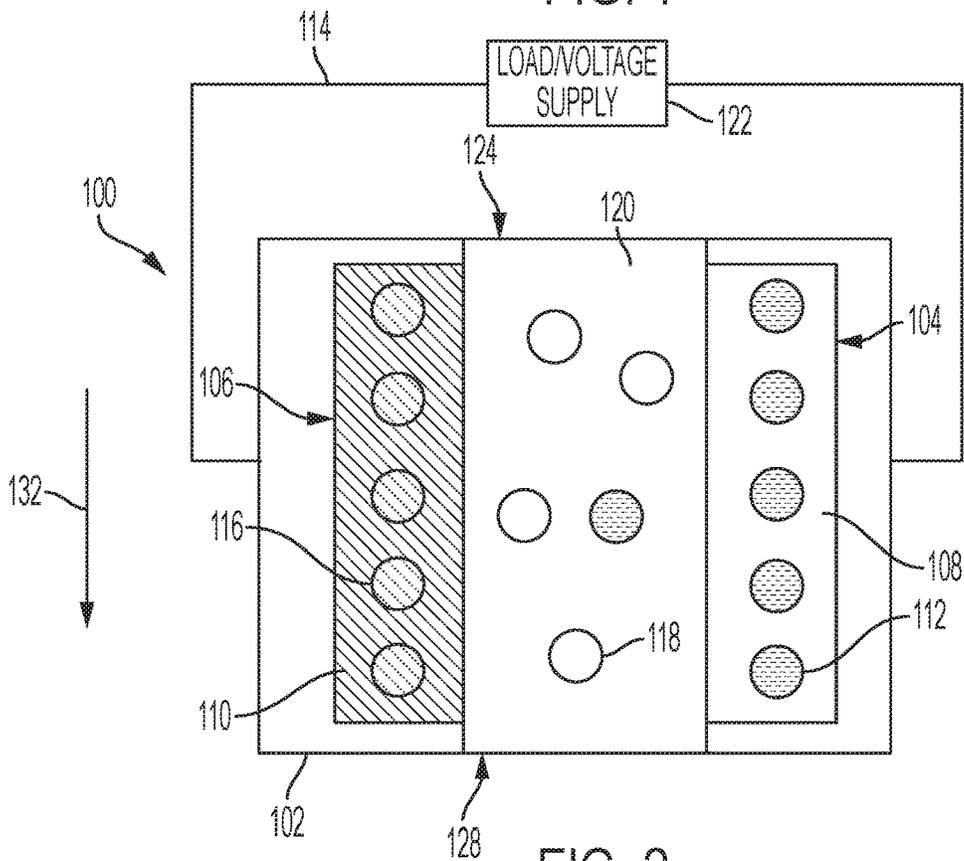


FIG. 2

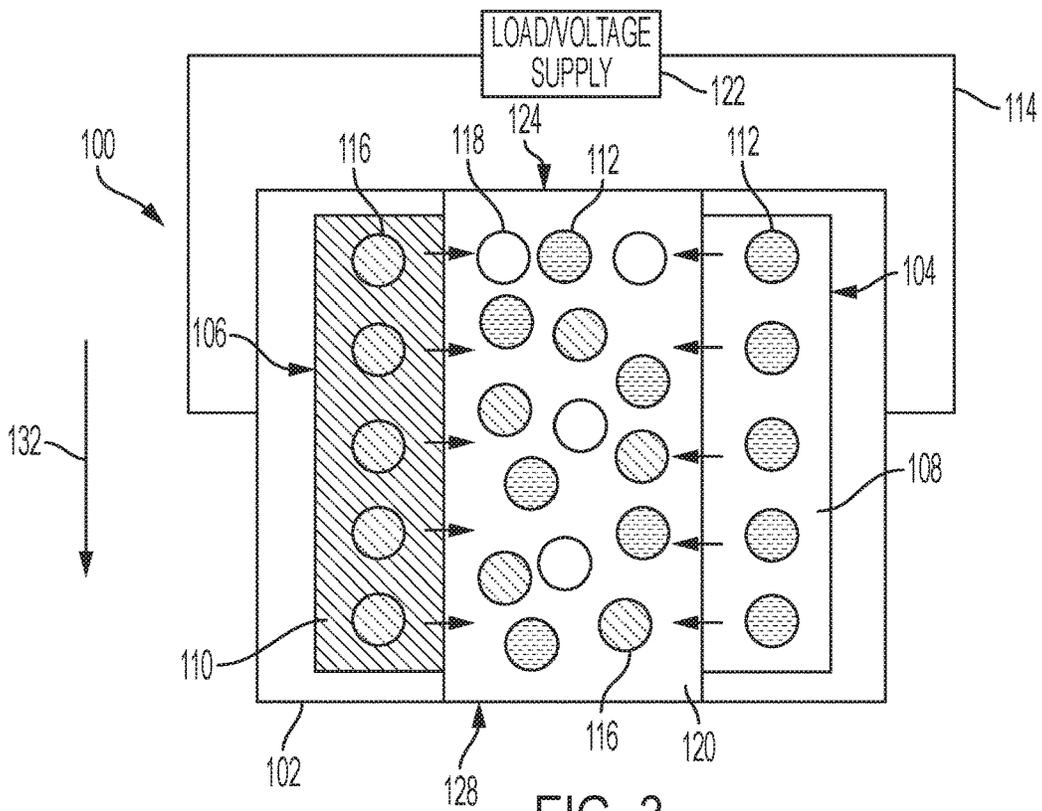


FIG. 3

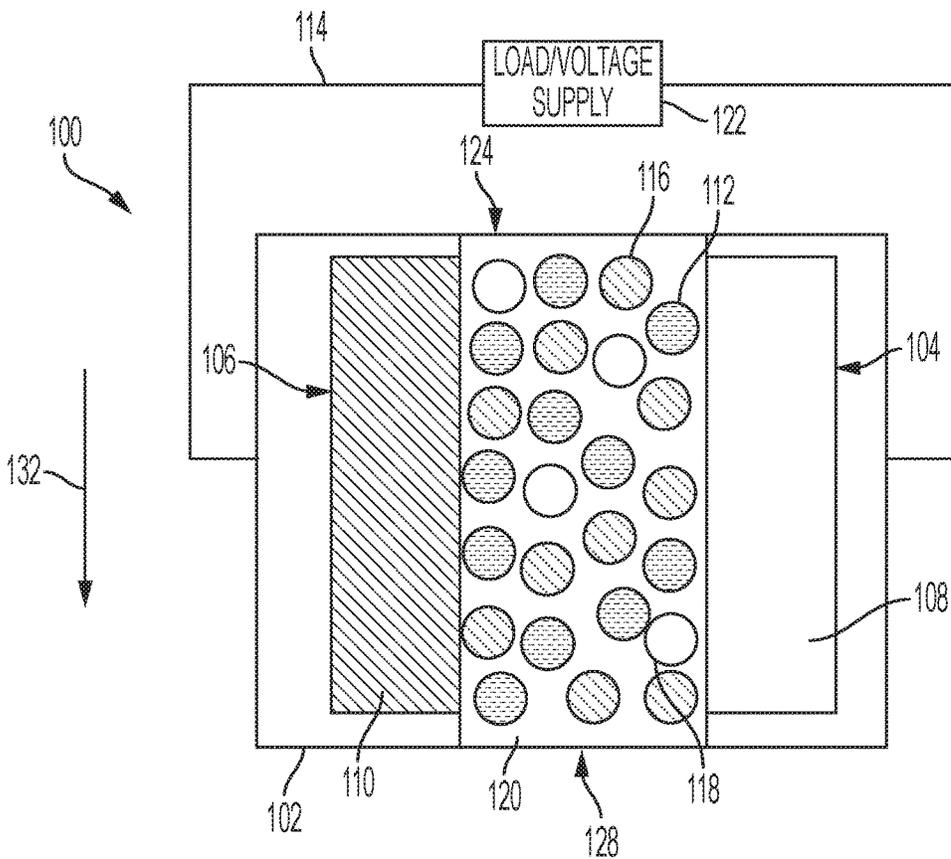


FIG. 4

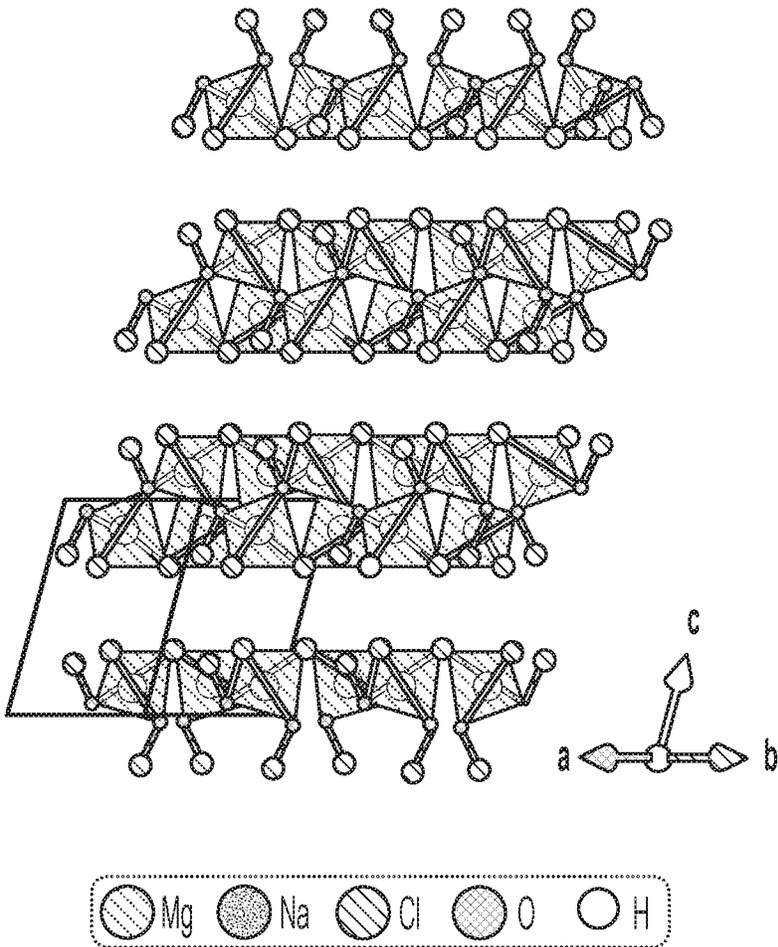


FIG. 5

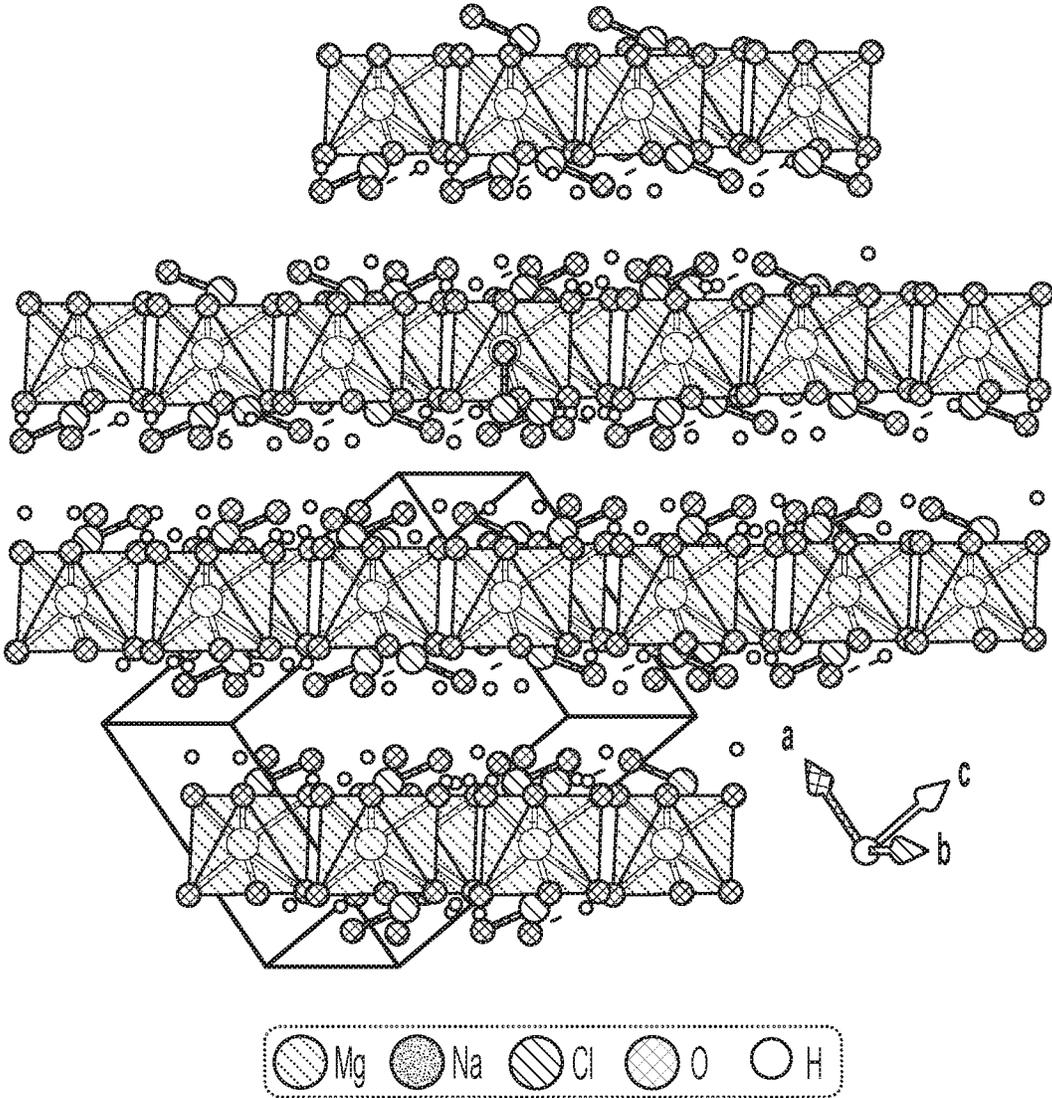


FIG. 6

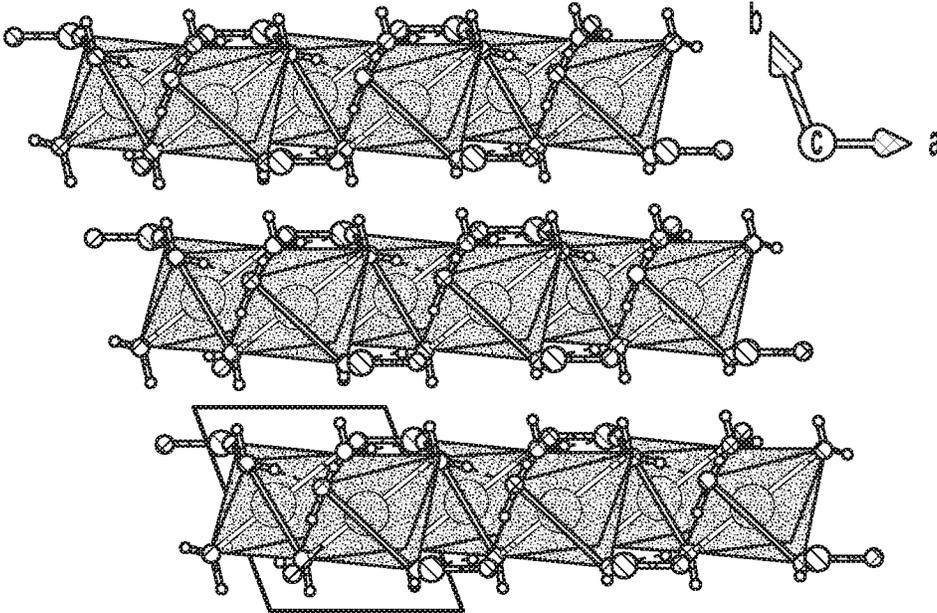


FIG. 7

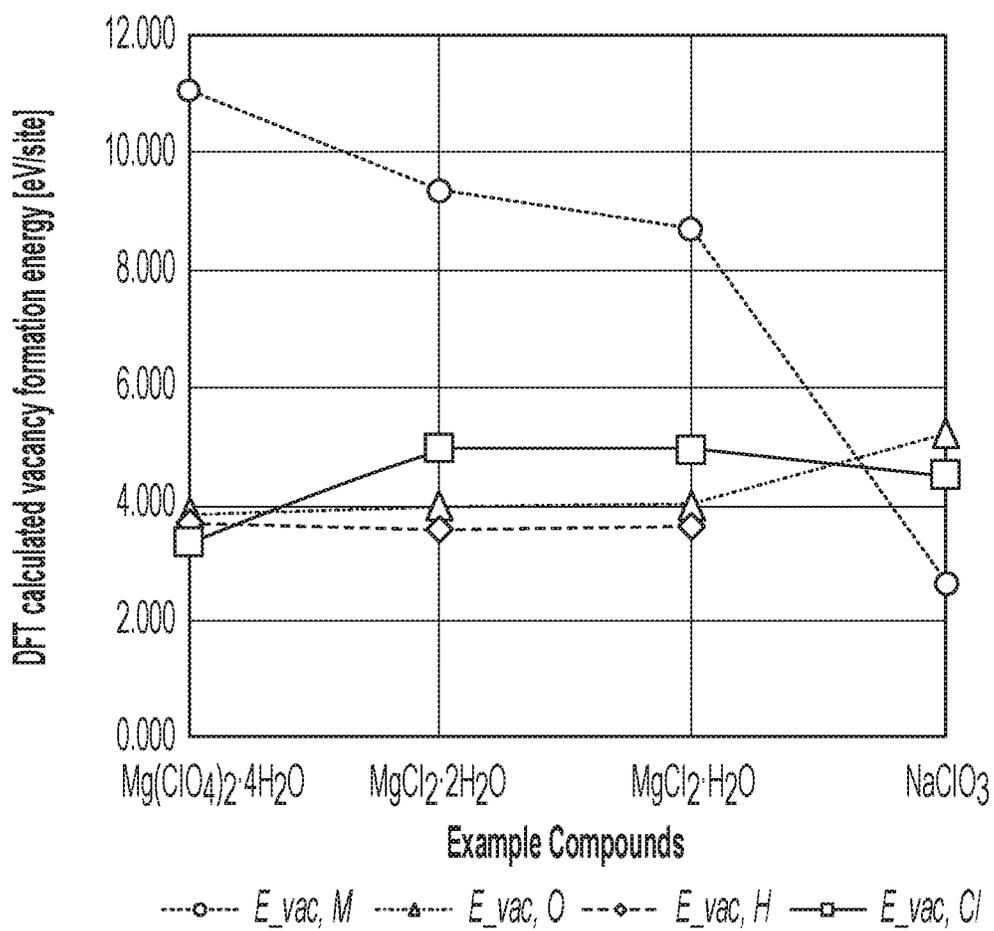


FIG. 8

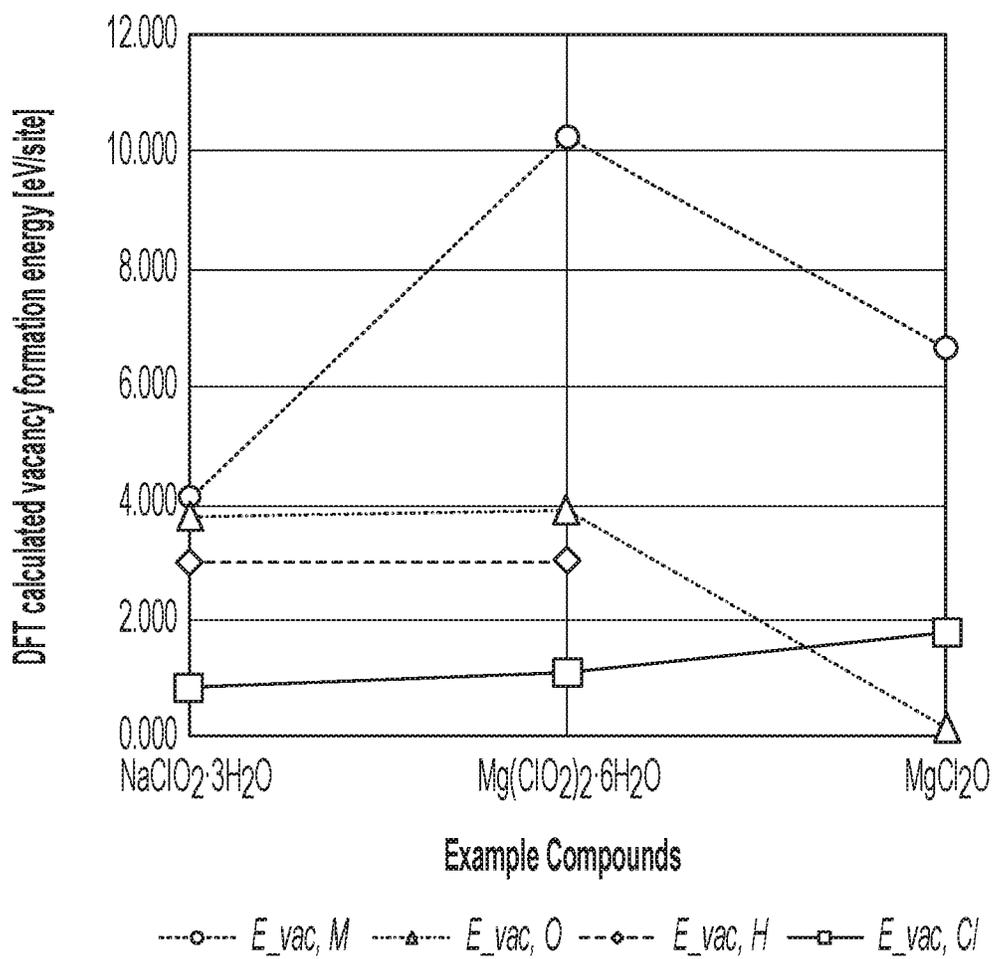


FIG. 9

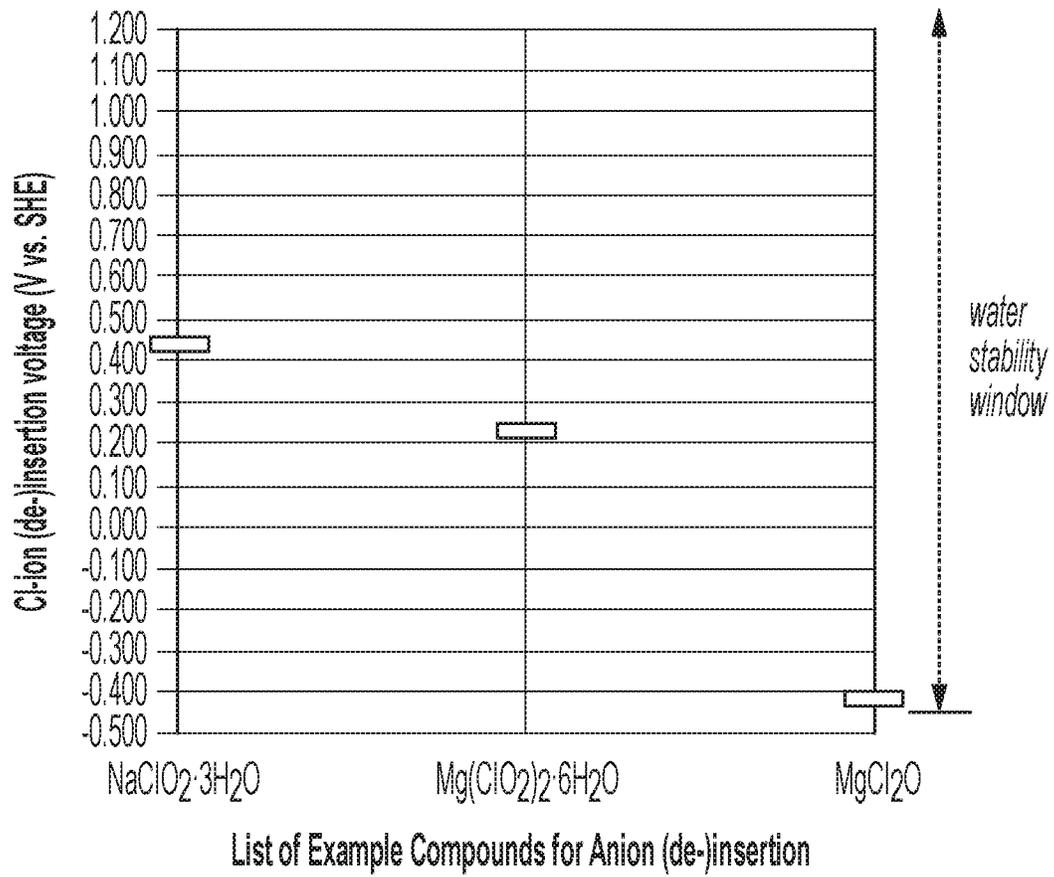


FIG. 10

ANION INSERTION ELECTRODE MATERIALS FOR DESALINATION WATER CLEANING DEVICE

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application 62/749,095, filed Oct. 22, 2018, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

FIELD

The disclosure relates to electrochemical treatment of water and more particularly to anion (de-)insertion host materials for electrodes of devices configured to desalinate water.

BACKGROUND

The demand for fresh, potable water is substantial and securing fresh and drinkable water sources for an increasing population on the Earth is one of the most important challenges in the twenty-first century. Increased amounts of fresh water are not only needed for human consumption, but also required for industrial and agricultural activities. Desalination is an emerging technology used to acquire fresh water from otherwise non-fresh sources and involves removing salt and other impurities from seawater. The desalination process can be implemented in different ways such as via thermal (e.g., heating and drying process, thermal distillation), applying electrical energy (i.e., charge-based separation of ions), and via mechanical energy/pressure (e.g., reverse osmosis (RO), membrane-based filtration).

Reverse osmosis (RO) and thermal distillation are techniques that are effective at comprehensive, non-selective removal of ions from water (i.e., deionization). Since these techniques remove water from salts, they are most advantageous when the initial ion load is quite high such as in the case of seawater desalination. However, RO and thermal distillation techniques suffer from generally high cost due to the significant energy inputs required. Charge-based ion separation techniques such as electrodialysis or electroabsorption remove ions from feed water using ion-exchange membranes and/or high-surface-area carbon in connection with an applied potential to attract ions out of the water to an electrode and to limit desorption. These charge-based separation techniques are typically more attractive for brackish water sources or applications that require partial removal of ions from a water stream.

A desalination battery is a newer technology that has been used to desalinate water. The desalination battery typically includes two electrode hosts configured to remove target cations and anions when a voltage is applied to the device. The desalination battery can be operated to separate seawater into a fresh water stream and a brine stream. For the collection of cations, such as the cations Na^+ , Mg^{2+} , Ca^{2+} , K^+ , Pb^{2+} , and others, the intercalation or conversion reaction in the cathode part of the desalination battery typically occurs in binary, ternary, or higher oxides and/or cyanides such as MnO_2 , $\text{Na}_{0.44}\text{MnO}_2$, $\text{KFeCu}(\text{CN})_6 \cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$, sodium nickel- and/or sodium iron-based hexacyanoferrates (HCF) as the working system. On the other hand, the removal of anions, such as the anions Cl^- , SO_4^{2-} , and others, typically takes place in an Ag/AgCl electrode system. While silver has some advantages, the high price of silver and the poor electronic conductivity of AgCl, which is the primary kinetic limitation of the desalination battery, limit the utility of the Ag/AgCl electrode in practical devices.

What is needed, therefore, is a working electrode system that is scalable for industrial use in terms of chemical process, cost, efficiency, and long-term durability for removing anions from water.

SUMMARY

An intercalation electrode for a desalination battery in one embodiment includes an intercalation compound that contains at least one of a metal oxide, a metalloid oxide, a metal oxychloride, a metalloid oxychloride, and a hydrate thereof each having a ternary or higher order. The intercalation compound is configured to be at least partially immersed in a saline water solution and undergo a reversible intercalation reaction. In a first condition of the intercalation electrode, anions from the saline water solution reversibly insert into sites within the intercalation compound. In a second condition of the intercalation electrode, the anions within the intercalation compound de-insert therefrom into the saline water solution.

A desalination battery in one embodiment includes a first electrode, a second electrode, an intercalation compound contained in the first electrode, a container configured to contain a saline water solution having a first concentration c_1 of dissolved salts, and a power source. The intercalation compound includes at least one of a metal oxide, a metalloid oxide, a metal oxychloride, a metalloid oxychloride, and a hydrate thereof each having a ternary or higher order. The first and second electrodes are configured to be arranged in fluid communication with the saline water solution. The power source is configured to supply electric current to the first and second electrodes such that the intercalation compound reversibly stores and releases target anions from the saline water solution located in sites within the first intercalation compound. The desalination battery generates a fresh water solution that has a second concentration c_2 of dissolved salts within the container when the intercalation compound stores the target anions. The desalination battery generates a wastewater solution that has a third concentration c_3 of dissolved salts within the container when the intercalation compound releases the target anions. The third concentration c_3 is larger than the first concentration c_1 , which in turn is larger than the second concentration c_2 .

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIGS. 1-4 depict a simplified schematic of a desalination battery in different operating states, the desalination battery including at least one electrode with an electrode material configured to reversibly store and release target anions from a water supply;

FIG. 5 illustrates the crystal structure of an anion intercalation host electrode formed of monoclinic $\text{p}2_1/\text{c}$ MgCl_2O to be used in the desalination battery of FIG. 1;

FIG. 6 illustrates the crystal structure of an anion intercalation host electrode formed of tetragonal $\text{p}4_2/\text{nmc}$ $\text{Mg}(\text{ClO}_2)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ to be used in the desalination battery of FIG. 1;

FIG. 7 illustrates the crystal structure of an anion intercalation host electrode formed of triclinic $\text{P}-1$ $\text{NaClO}_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ to be used in the desalination battery of FIG. 1;

FIG. 8 is a chart that illustrates the density-functional-theory (DFT) calculated vacancy formation energy ($\Delta E_{\text{vac},i}$) of metal (M) (M=Mg or Na), oxygen (O), hydrogen (H), and chlorine (Cl) for compounds that do not satisfy a predefined screening criteria;

FIG. 9 is a chart that illustrates the DFT calculated vacancy formation energy ($\Delta E_{vac,i}$) of M (M=Mg or Na), O, H, and Cl for compounds that satisfy the predefined screening criteria; and

FIG. 10 is a chart that illustrates Cl⁻ ion (de-)insertion voltage (vs. the standard hydrogen electrode (SHE)) based on first-principles DFT calculations for compounds that satisfy the predefined screening criteria.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

For the purpose of promoting an understanding of the principles of the disclosure, reference will now be made to the embodiments illustrated in the drawings and described in the following written specification. It is understood that no limitation to the scope of the disclosure is thereby intended. It is further understood that the disclosure includes any alterations and modifications to the illustrated embodiments and includes further applications of the principles of the disclosure as would normally occur to one skilled in the art to which this disclosure pertains.

FIGS. 1-4 illustrate a device 100 for removing ions from a water supply. The device in the embodiment shown is configured as a desalination battery 100. The device 100 has a first electrode 104 that includes a first intercalation host material 108 that reversibly removes and releases first target ions 112 in different operating states of the device via a first reversible intercalation reaction. The first target ions 112 in the illustrated embodiment include single anion species, such as F⁻, Cl⁻, Br⁻, I⁻, and S²⁻; anion complexes, such as ClO₄⁻, ClO₃⁻, ClO₂⁻, BrO₄⁻, BrO₃⁻, SO₄²⁻, SiO₃²⁻, and CN⁻; and metal-containing anions, such as MX_yO_zⁿ⁻ (where M=Na, Mg, Al, Si, K, Ca, Sc, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Ni, Cu, Zn, Mo, Sn, Cs, and Pb; X=F, Cl, Br, I, N, and P; and 0≤y≤5; 0≤z≤5; 1≤n≤4) all of which are potentially present in sea-

water and industrial water. The device 100 shown in FIGS. 1-4 also includes a second electrode 106 electrically connected to the first electrode 104 via an external circuit 114. The second electrode 106 in some embodiments includes a second intercalation host material 110 that reversibly removes and releases second target ions 116 in the different operating states of the device via a second reversible intercalation reaction. The second target ions 116 can include the cations Na⁺, Mg²⁺, Ca²⁺, K⁺, Pb²⁺, and others. The water supply can also include other ions 118 that do not react with the first electrode 104 or the second electrode 106.

The device 100 further includes a power source, current source, or voltage source 122 configured to supply electric current to the first and second electrodes 104, 106. The electric current is applied to remove the target ions from the water supply. The electric current can be constant current until reaching a predetermined voltage cutoff or positive voltage can be applied to the device 100.

The device 100 in some embodiments includes a container 102 configured to retain a liquid solution such as a water solution 120. The container 102 can be a container, compartment, housing, vessel, can, canister, tank, or the like of any shape, size, or configuration capable of obtaining, retaining, holding, and/or releasing a liquid solution such as saline water, brackish water, sea water, ocean water, fresh water, sweet water, drinking water, desalinated water, contaminated water, industrial water, etc. The container is spacious enough to house a sufficient amount of a water solution undergoing water desalination; dimensions thus differ based on a specific application. The container can be large enough to serve industrial applications. The container

can be made from different materials capable of withstanding corrosion, temperature fluctuations, changing pH, varying pressure, and be resistant to other chemical, mechanical, and/or physical conditions.

The container can be made from glass, plastic, composite, metal, ceramic, or a combination of materials. The container can feature one or more protective coatings. The container can be made from a material which minimizes occurrence of water contamination. The container can be made from material(s) which are nontoxic and comply with drinking water standards.

The first and second electrodes 104, 106 are arranged within the device 100 to be in fluid communication with the water solution 120 present in the container 102. The first and second electrodes 104, 106 are at least partially submerged in the water solution 120. The first and second electrodes 104, 106 in some embodiments can be fully submerged in the water solution 120. The first and second electrodes 104, 106 can be placed on the opposite sides of the container 102 as shown in the figures, placed centrally in the container 102, or located on the same side of the container 102. The first and second electrodes 104, 106 can be located next to each other or be separated by a distance. The distance can be 1 mm or more, 1 cm or more, 10 cm or more, 20 cm or more, 30 cm or more, depending on the dimensions of the container 102 and the first and second electrodes 104, 106. Other distances between the first and second electrodes are contemplated as well.

The first and second electrodes 104, 106 with the first and second intercalation materials 108, 110 function as intercalation hosts. Intercalation refers to reversible inclusion of one or more ions into materials with layered structures. The spaces between layers can serve as a temporary storage for one or more types of ions. The first intercalation host material 108 in at least the first electrode 104 reversibly stores and releases anions from the saline water solution having a first concentration c₁ of dissolved salts to generate a fresh water solution having a second concentration c₂ of dissolved salts and a wastewater solution having a third concentration c₃ of dissolved salts within the container such that c₃>c₁>c₂.

A comprehensive computational design approach with reaction models determining thermodynamic and electrochemical stability of oxygen- and chlorine-bearing compounds was developed to identify the anion intercalation host material 108 disclosed herein. FIGS. 8 and 9 are respective charts that identify the density-functional-theory (DFT) calculated vacancy formation energy ($\Delta E_{vac,i}$) of M (M=Mg or Na), O, H, and Cl for selected compounds. For reversible anion (de-)insertion (e.g., Cl⁻), the calculated $\Delta E_{vac,Cl}$ is to be reasonably small, while ΔE_{vac} of M, O, H is to be reasonably high for maintaining the crystal structure intact during the charge/discharge process.

The compounds listed in FIG. 8 do not satisfy these screening criteria because: (1) $\Delta E_{vac,Cl}$ (square markers) is relatively high (≥3 eV/Cl) and (2) ΔE_{vac} of O and H (triangle markers and diamond markers, respectively) are relatively low when compared to $\Delta E_{vac,Cl}$. In contrast, the compounds listed in FIG. 9 show relatively low $\Delta E_{vac,Cl}$ (≤2 eV/Cl), indicating they are configured for reversible anion (de-)insertion. While the compounds NaClO₂·3H₂O and Mg(ClO₂)₂·6H₂O exhibit high ΔE_{vac} of O and H (i.e., high structural stability), the compound MgCl₂O has relatively low $\Delta E_{vac,O}$. If $\Delta E_{vac,O}$ is low in any type of compound structures, oxygen will likely (de-)insert with Cl in the form of ClO_xⁿ⁻ (where x can vary from 1 to 4 and n is limited by x, for example, from 1 to 4).

FIG. 10 is a chart that identifies Cl^- ion (de-)insertion voltage (vs. the standard hydrogen electrode (SHE)) for selected compounds based on first-principles DFT calculations. The (de-)insertion voltage must be within the stability window of water (i.e., -0.401 to $+1.23$ V vs. SHE) to avoid water electrolysis. The selected compounds, which include metal oxychlorides (and hydrates), meet the target voltage criteria so they can be utilized as an electrode component for anion (de-)insertion. In particular, the dash along the leftmost vertical line of the three vertical lines in the chart of FIG. 10 illustrates the Cl^- ion (de-)insertion voltage for the compound $\text{NaClO}_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$. The dash along the middle vertical line of the three vertical lines in the chart of FIG. 10 illustrates the Cl^- ion (de-)insertion voltage for the compound $\text{Mg}(\text{ClO}_2)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$. The dash along the rightmost vertical line of the three vertical lines in the chart of FIG. 10 illustrates the Cl^- ion (de-)insertion voltage for the compound MgCl_2O .

In view of the computational materials screening criteria described above, the anion intercalation host material **108** disclosed herein in some embodiments includes, but is not limited to, at least one of: $\text{Mg}(\text{ClO}_2)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$, MgCl_2O , and $\text{NaClO}_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$. FIG. 5 illustrates the crystal structure of monoclinic $\text{p}2_1/c$ MgCl_2O . FIG. 6 illustrates the crystal structure of tetragonal $\text{p}4_2/nmc$ $\text{Mg}(\text{ClO}_2)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$. FIG. 7 illustrates the crystal structure of triclinic $\text{P}-1$ $\text{NaClO}_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$. The crystal structures illustrated in FIGS. 5-7 include sodium (Na), magnesium (Mg), oxygen (O), chlorine (Cl), and hydrogen (H). These elements are distinguished from one another in the figures by use of different fill-patterns within the circles representing the elements according to the corresponding legends. In other embodiments, the anion intercalation host material **108** disclosed herein includes, but is not limited to, at least one of the following ternary and quaternary metal oxides and metal oxychlorides: $\text{AlH}_{12}(\text{ClO}_2)_3$, $\text{MnH}_8(\text{ClO}_2)_2$, $\text{FeH}_8(\text{ClO}_2)_2$, and $\text{NiH}_8(\text{ClO}_2)_2$.

The first electrode **104** with the anion intercalation host material **108** disclosed herein has a (de-)insertion voltage for single anion species (i.e., Cl^-), anion complexes, and metal-containing anions that is lower than the metal dissolution potential, lower than the oxygen gas evolution potential, and within a (de-)insertion voltage range of -0.5 to 1.5 V vs. SHE, which is slightly larger than the water stability window, so as to avoid water electrolysis. In some embodiments, the first electrode **104** with the anion intercalation host material **108** disclosed herein has a thermodynamic Cl vacancy formation energy that is higher than 0.8 eV per Cl site and lower than 2.8 eV per Cl site. In these embodiments, the anion intercalation host material **108** has metal, oxygen, and hydrogen thermodynamic vacancy formation energies that are higher than the Cl vacancy formation energy. In some embodiments, the (de-)insertion voltage for Cl^- and related anion complexes exceeds outside of the (de-)insertion voltage range to overcome kinetically-limited ion diffusions and/or account for overpotential caused by the possible formation of passivation (or protective) layer.

The anion intercalation host material **108** disclosed herein in some embodiments includes, but is not limited to, at least one of the following alkali-metal-based and transition-metal-based oxychlorides and their hydrates: $\text{Ca}_4\text{Cl}_6\text{O}$, CaHClO , NaH_4ClO_2 , AlClO , $\text{Si}_3(\text{Cl}_4\text{O})_2$, SiCl_2O , $\text{Si}_6\text{Cl}_{10}\text{O}_7$, SiCl_2O , $\text{Si}_2\text{Cl}_2\text{O}_3$, $\text{Ti}(\text{ClO}_4)_4$, TiClO , $\text{Mn}_8\text{Cl}_3\text{O}_{10}$, $\text{MnH}_4(\text{ClO})_2$, FeClO , $\text{Ni}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$, $\text{NiH}_{16}(\text{ClO}_8)_2$, $\text{NiH}_{12}(\text{ClO}_3)_2$, $\text{Cu}_2\text{Cl}_2\text{O}$, and $\text{CuH}_8(\text{ClO}_5)_2$.

The anion intercalation host material **108** disclosed herein in some embodiments includes $\text{M}(\text{ClO}_2)_x$, where M can be

Mg, Ca, or Na, or can be Al, Si, Fe, Co, Ni, Cr, V, Ti, Cu, Zr, Nb, W, Mo, Mn, or combinations thereof.

The anion intercalation host material **108** disclosed herein in some embodiments includes $\text{MA}_x\text{O}_y \cdot z\text{H}_2\text{O}$, where M can be Mg, Ca, Na, Al, Si, Fe, Co, Ni, Cr, V, Ti, Cu, Zr, Nb, W, Mo, Mn, or combinations thereof, A may be Cl, F, Br, I, N, or P, or combinations thereof, and $0 < x, y, z < 7$.

The first electrode **104** can include the anion intercalation host material **108** disclosed herein blended with additives for stability, conductivity, and/or physical properties. The second electrode **106** can also include additives for stability, conductivity, and/or other physical properties in addition to the active material **110**.

A non-limiting example of a conductivity agent can include carbon black, conductive carbon black, amorphous carbon, carbon fibers, quaternary ammonium salt(s), alkyl sulfonate(s), halogen-free cationic compound(s), the like, or a combination thereof.

A non-limiting example of a polymeric binder can be polyvinylidene fluoride (PVdF), polyacrylonitrile (PAN), poly(methyl methacrylate) (PMMA), polyethylene glycol (PEO), polyimide, polydopamine, poly(ethylene glycol) diacrylate, polymethylpentene, nylon, metal-aramid, polyether imide, copolyester, polyetherketone, carboxymethyl cellulose, styrene-butadiene rubber (SBR), copolymers and blends such as poly(vinylidene fluoride-hexafluoropropylene) (PVdF-HFP), poly(vinylidene fluoride-chlorotrifluoroethylene) (PVdF-CTFE), poly(methyl methacrylate-vinyl acetate) (PMMA-VAc), poly(ethylene glycol) diacrylate (PEGDA), poly(methyl methacrylate-acrylonitrile-vinyl acetate) (PMMA-AN-VAc), poly(methyl methacrylate-co-butyl acrylate) (PMMA-co-BA), poly(3,4-ethylenedioxythiophene) polystyrene sulfonate-co-polyethylene glycol (PEDOT-co-PEG), the like, or a combination thereof. In one embodiment the first electrode **104** includes about 70 to 95 wt. % intercalation host material **108** mixed as a slurry in a solvent (e.g., NMP) with about 1 to 20 wt. % carbon black and about 1 to 20 wt. % polymer binder based on the total weight of the electrode.

With reference again to FIGS. 1-4, the device **100** in some embodiments is arranged in a water supply system (not shown) that includes various pumps, conduits, valves, and related components to transport water from a source to an end user. The container **102** of the device **100** in one embodiment is arranged in the water supply system such that the water solution **120** enters the container **102** at an input side **124** and exits the container **102** at an output side **128**. As the water solution **120** is moved in a flow direction **132** through the container **102** and over at least a portion of the first electrode **104**, the device **100** is configured to have different operating states that enable it to reversibly remove the first target ions **112** from the water solution **120**. The flow direction **132** shown in FIGS. 1-4 is for reference only and can be reversed in other embodiments. If the flow direction is reversed, the locations of the input side **124** and the output side **128** of the device will be reversed as well.

FIG. 1 illustrates the device as a desalination battery **100** in a first operating state. The water solution **120** to be dechlorinated/desalinated (i.e., seawater) is fed to the input side **124** of the battery **100** and immerses the first electrode **104**. Concurrently, a voltage is applied to the first electrode **104** to induce the first electrode **104** to remove the first target ions **112** via intercalation. As shown, the first electrode **104** at the start of the first operating states is fully charged such that it does not contain mobile first target ions **112**. In some embodiments, the first electrode **104** at the start of the first operating state may contain some mobile first target ions **112**

in an amount less than a full capacity of the mobile first target ions **112** in the first electrode **104**. In one embodiment, the first electrode **104** includes up to 10% of the full capacity of the mobile first ions **112** in the first electrode **104** at the start of the first operating state.

A comparison of FIGS. **1** and **2** illustrates the changing condition of the water solution **120** and the first electrode **104** as the battery **100** functions in the first operating state. As shown, the first target ions **112** are removed from the water solution **120** and intercalated into the first electrode **104**. The water solution **120** that exits the output side **128** of the battery **100** when the battery is operated in the first operating state will contain a lower concentration of the first target ions **112** than the water that enters the input side **124** of the battery **100**. In the embodiment in which the first target ions **112** are the anion Cl^- , the water solution **120** exiting the battery **100** will be a fresh water solution or a dechlorinated water solution. The battery **100** in the embodiment shown also includes the second electrode **106**, which removes the second target ions **116** via intercalation into the second electrode **106**. In the embodiment in which the second target ions **116** are the cation Na^+ , the water solution **120** exiting the battery **100** will be a desalinated water solution. The first operating state of the battery **100** is sometimes referred to as a “purification cycle” since the removal of the first target ions **112** purifies the water stream exiting the battery **100**. The voltage applied to the first and second electrodes **104**, **106** in the first operating state is configured to be within -0.5 to 1.5 V, which is slightly larger than the stability window of water (i.e., -0.401 to $+1.23$ V vs. SHE), so as to avoid water electrolysis.

FIG. **3** illustrates the battery **100** in a second operating state in which the first electrode **104** is fully discharged such that it is saturated with the first target ions **112**. Additional seawater **120** is fed to the input side **124** of the battery while a reversed voltage is applied to the first electrode **104** to induce the first electrode **104** to release the first target ions **112**. A comparison of FIGS. **3** and **4** illustrates the changing condition of the water solution **120** and the first electrode **104** as the battery **100** functions in the second operating state. As shown, the first target ions **112** are released into the water solution **120** from the first electrode **104**. In the embodiment shown, the second electrode **106** also releases the second target ions **116** into the water solution **120**. The water solution **120** that exits the output side **128** of the battery **100** when the battery is operated in the second operating state will contain a higher concentration of the first target ions **112** and the second target ions **116** than the water that enters the input side **124** of the battery **100**. As such, this water is sometimes referred to as a wastewater stream or solution or a brine stream or solution. The voltage applied to the first electrode **104** in the second operating state is also configured to be within -0.5 to 1.5 V vs. SHE. The first electrode **104** upon release of all the first target ions **112** is once again fully charged and ready for a subsequent purification cycle.

The battery **100** can be a closed or open system. The battery **100** can operate in cycles (intercalation and deintercalation), where the water solution **120** flows continuously. Under the continuous flow, the desalinated water solution exiting the container **102** can be stored in a reservoir (not shown). Alternatively, the battery **100** can operate as a batch desalination battery, where a limited amount of the water solution **120** is supplied and held in the container **102** to be cleaned in a smaller scale operation.

The anion intercalation host material **108** disclosed herein has many advantages. A simple metal oxide, metal oxychloride,

rides, and/or their hydrates and/or their combination can be used to selectively remove the anion such as Cl^- from aqueous streams (hardness removal from drinking water is also an application). The anion intercalation host material **108** disclosed herein can reversibly remove and release the anions present in the seawater, brackish water and industrial water without severe structural and mechanical damage on the bulk electrode materials.

During the electrochemical charge/discharge processes, the (de-)insertion of anions (e.g., Cl^- , ClO_2^- , ClO_4^- , etc.) is thermodynamically favored (reversibly) over decomposing the electrodes host by extracting other elements within the compounds (e.g., metal, oxygen, hydrogen, etc.), which has been verified by thermodynamic-based first-principles DFT calculations.

The developed computational methods have identified the general design principles (i.e., structural feature necessary) for compounds that can lead to reversible anion (de-) intercalation and these principles can be extended to other metal oxide, metal oxychlorides, and their hydrates.

The anion intercalation host material **108** disclosed herein can host anion species by: (1) acting as a host for single element anion (e.g., Cl^- , F^- , etc.), (2) hosting anion complexes such as ClO_2^- , SO_4^{2-} , etc., and (3) (de-)inserting metal anion clusters, for example, AlCl_4^- , MgCl_3^- , etc.

The ionicity and solvation to water can be further modified and tuned by full- and/or partial-substitution of metal and metalloid M that has a higher electronegativity value in $\text{MO}_x\text{Cl}_y\cdot z\text{H}_2\text{O}$ systems (i.e., making the compounds less ionic and more covalent).

The anion intercalation host material **108** disclosed herein (which includes ternary, quaternary, and higher order metal oxides, metalloid oxides, metal(-loid) oxychlorides, and the hydrate forms) can reversibly uptake anions, including the single anion species such as F^- , Cl^- , Br^- , I^- , S^{2-} , anion complexes including but not limited to ClO_4^- , ClO_3^- , ClO_2^- , BrO_4^- , BrO_3^- , SO_4^{2-} , SiO_3^{2-} , CN^- , and metal-containing anions such as $\text{MX}_y\text{O}_z^{n-}$ ($\text{M}=\text{Na}, \text{Mg}, \text{Al}, \text{Si}, \text{K}, \text{Ca}, \text{Sc}, \text{Ti}, \text{V}, \text{Cr}, \text{Mn}, \text{Fe}, \text{Ni}, \text{Cu}, \text{Zn}, \text{Mo}, \text{Sn}, \text{Cs}, \text{and Pb}$; $\text{X}=\text{F}, \text{Cl}, \text{Br}, \text{I}, \text{N}, \text{and P}$; $0 < y \leq 5$; $0 \leq z \leq 5$; $1 \leq n \leq 4$) potentially present in seawater and industrial water for cleaning and desalination purposes, thereby improving the performance and efficiency of desalination water cleaning device and process, relative to existing technologies that employ silver-based AgCl electrodes.

Compared to the Ag/AgCl anodes used in existing desalination batteries, the anion intercalation host material **108** disclosed herein can be mass-produced at industrial scale via a simple, facile and cost-effective solid-state, or solution-based synthetic routes.

While the disclosure has been illustrated and described in detail in the drawings and foregoing description, the same should be considered as illustrative and not restrictive in character. It is understood that only the preferred embodiments have been presented and that all changes, modifications and further applications that come within the spirit of the disclosure are desired to be protected.

What is claimed is:

1. An intercalation electrode for a desalination battery, comprising:

an intercalation compound that contains at least one of a metal oxide, a metalloid oxide, a metal oxychloride, a metalloid oxychloride, and a hydrate thereof with each having a ternary or higher order, the intercalation compound configured to be at least partially immersed in a saline water solution and undergo a reversible intercalation reaction in which (i) anions from the

saline water solution reversibly insert within the intercalation compound in a first condition of the electrode and (ii) the anions within the intercalation compound de-insert therefrom into the saline water solution in a second condition of the electrode,

wherein the intercalation compound has the chemical formula $MA_xO_y \cdot zH_2O$, where $M=Al, Ca, Co, Cr, Cu, Fe, Mg, Mn, Mo, Na, Nb, Ni, Si, Ti, V, W, Zr$, or a combination thereof, $A=Br, Cl, F, I, N, P$, or a combination thereof, and $0 < x, y, z < 7$.

2. The intercalation electrode of claim 1, wherein a voltage in which the anions insert into and de-insert from the intercalation compound in the first and second conditions, respectively, is within a voltage range of -0.5 to 1.5 V.

3. The intercalation electrode of claim 2, wherein the voltage exceeds the voltage range by up to 0.4 V to one or more of (i) overcome kinetically-limited ion diffusions and (ii) account for overpotential caused by a passivation layer formed on the intercalation electrode.

4. The intercalation electrode of claim 1, wherein a voltage in which the anions insert into and de-insert from the intercalation compound in the first and second conditions, respectively, is lower than both a metal dissolution potential and an oxygen gas evolution potential.

5. The intercalation electrode of claim 1, wherein the intercalation compound has (i) a vacancy formation energy of Cl^- that is between 0.8 and 2.8 eV per Cl site and (ii) respective vacancy formation energies of one or more of metal, oxygen, and hydrogen that are higher than the vacancy formation energy of Cl^- .

6. The intercalation electrode of claim 1, further comprising at least one conductivity agent and at least one polymeric binder blended with the intercalation compound, the intercalation compound, the conductivity agent, and the polymeric binder representing about 70 to 90 wt. %, about 1 to 20 wt. %, and about 1 to 20 wt. %, respectively, based on the total weight of the electrode.

7. An intercalation electrode for a desalination battery, comprising:

an intercalation compound that contains at least one of a metal oxide, a metalloid oxide, a metal oxychloride, a metalloid oxychloride, and a hydrate thereof with each having a ternary or higher order, the intercalation compound configured to be at least partially immersed in a saline water solution and undergo a reversible intercalation reaction in which (i) anions from the saline water solution reversibly insert within the intercalation compound in a first condition of the electrode and (ii) the anions within the intercalation compound de-insert therefrom into the saline water solution in a second condition of the electrode,

wherein the intercalation compound has at least one of the chemical formulas $Mg(ClO_2)_2 \cdot 6H_2O$, $MgCl_2O$, and $NaClO_2 \cdot 3H_2O$.

8. An intercalation electrode for a desalination battery, comprising:

an intercalation compound that contains at least one of a metal oxide, a metalloid oxide, a metal oxychloride, a metalloid oxychloride, and a hydrate thereof with each having a ternary or higher order, the intercalation compound configured to be at least partially immersed in a saline water solution and undergo a reversible intercalation reaction in which (i) anions from the saline water solution reversibly insert within the intercalation compound in a first condition of the electrode and (ii) the anions within the intercalation compound de-insert therefrom into the saline water solution in a second condition of the electrode,

wherein the intercalation compound has at least one of the chemical formulas $AlH_{12}(ClO_2)_3$, $FeH_8(ClO_2)_2$, $MnH_8(ClO_2)_2$, and $NiH_8(ClO_2)_2$.

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